

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: spouse
Service Category(ies): I-Information and Outreach, II-Information and Assistance, & IV-Respite	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age: 60s	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 60s	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

Harold and Carolyn are a couple in their middle 60's. Both worked as professionals until Carolyn was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Carolyn had surgery and the tumor was removed two years ago. Since that time she has made progress, but has trouble processing information and needs Harold to assist her in her activities of daily living. Until this time, both Carolyn and Harold were very active in professional groups and pursuing hobbies. Now, Carolyn is fearful and does not want to let Harold out of her sight. This not only limits Carolyn, but this also curtails Harold's activities outside the home.

Intervention(s):

They contacted the Family Caregiver Specialist in search of activities that Carolyn could participate in and give Harold time for himself. Carolyn was interested in seeing the senior center and the Adult Center for Enrichment. When the Caregiver Program Coordinator spoke with them, she asked Harold if he wanted to receive the *Caregiver Connections* newsletter. The very next edition was sent to Harold and it included an insert that has a caregiver self-stress test.

Outcomes

The Adult Center for Enrichment was not the environment that Carolyn wanted as she envisioned other activities for herself. Carolyn considered attending the senior center for a trial period.

Harold came by one day and asked for additional information regarding stress with the comment, "I didn't know I was stressed until I took this test." He took information regarding support groups, counseling and respite.

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

North Carolina Family Caregiver Support Program Caregiver Vignettes

Region: G	Relationship to care recipient: grandparents
Service Category(ies): IV-Respite	Service Year: 2004-2005
Caregiver age:	Submitted By: Blair Barton-Percival
Care recipient age: 8	Phone: 336-294-4950

Family situation:

In early August, 2004, the funeral for Mrs. P was held in North Carolina. Mrs. P, along with her husband Mr. P, had been raising their eight year-old grandson. Mrs. P had been frail for sometime due to a stroke she had suffered several years ago. But despite her physical limitations, as a former educator, she was an immense help assisting her grandson with his schoolwork. The P's, along with their grandson, attended the Camp Cheerio Weekend Retreat in mid-March, 2004. It was an enjoyable weekend for the family because it gave them an opportunity to get away and network with other grandparent caregivers. Soon after the return from Camp Cheerio, Mrs. P began to have a series of heart attacks. For over two months, Mrs. P lingered in a coma and the doctors informed her husband that she would not survive; it was just a matter of time.

Intervention(s):

Outcomes

Caregiver or others' quotes/comments:

After the funeral service, Mr. P told the caregiver coordinator that during his wife's illness he had thought a lot about their weekend at Camp Cheerio and how that "was the last time they were able to spend time together as a family before she became ill. That weekend will be a lasting memory for me and my grandson."